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An add-drop multiplexer in a dense wavelength division 2 multiplexing optical transmission system has one spatial switch 3 between laser outputs and a fiber link transmit interface, and 4 a second spatial switch between its receivers and a fiber link 5 receive interface. The spatial switches allow the associations 6 between received and transmitted data channels and the multiple 7 wavelengths of the dense wavelengths division multiplexing 8 system to be varied dynamically. 9